



New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination Site Proposed to Federal Superfund List

Community Update

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INTRODUCTION:

On March 8, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to add the New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination site (Site) in Nassau County, NY to the National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites. The NPL is the list of hazardous waste sites in the United States that are eligible for long-term cleanup financed under the federal Superfund.

Proposal of the Site to the NPL starts a 60-day public comment period which will expire at 11:59 p.m. on May 9, 2011. During the public comment period, EPA is soliciting public input about the proposed Site before EPA reaches a final decision on whether to add the Site to the NPL. For instructions on how to submit comments, please go to :

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/pubcom.htm>

EPA periodically proposes sites to the NPL. After all comments have been addressed, EPA can list the site on the NPL. The final designation of a site on the NPL makes it eligible for federal funding to conduct long-term cleanups. NPL listing of the Site would make its cleanup a high priority nationally, and would allow EPA to initiate and oversee the cleanup and build on the work that has already been done by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The New Cassel/Hicksville Ground Water Contamination Site includes contaminated ground water in the vicinity of industrial areas near Hicksville, New Cassel, Westbury, Hempstead and Salisbury in Nassau County, New York. EPA has conducted an initial investigation of the Site and confirmed the presence of elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in 11 public water supply wells, six in Hicksville, four in Hempstead, and one in Westbury. VOCs are often used as ingredients in paints, solvents, aerosol sprays, cleaners, disinfectants, automotive products and dry cleaning fluids. VOCs are contaminants that evaporate easily into the air and dissolve in water. A variety of past industrial and commercial activities in the area may have caused the ground water contamination.

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS:

The Magothy Aquifer, Nassau County's primary source of drinking water, is likely to have been impacted by VOC contamination from the Site. Public water distribution systems in the impacted towns have installed treatment systems to remove VOCs from the contaminated ground water before the water is distributed to the public. Public water distribution systems are required to maintain and monitor drinking water quality standards and to make their test results available to the public.

CLEANUP PROGRESS:

The NYSDEC investigated 17 facilities in the New Cassel industrial area between Frost Street in New Cassel and Swalm Avenue in North Hempstead. NYSDEC and some of the entities in the New Cassel industrial area, who are potentially responsible for the contamination, have already installed systems to remove contaminants from the ground water at and near portions of the Site. Additionally, two sites in Hicksville that have been investigated by the NYSDEC may be contributing to the ground water contamination.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

If listing of the Site on the NPL is finalized, EPA will begin to perform a remedial investigation and feasibility study. In addition, EPA will conduct community outreach to ensure community involvement in the Superfund process related to the Site. Public information meetings will be held and community updates will be issued periodically to discuss the status of investigations and upcoming actions related to the Site.

**For more information on the NPL Site listing process, visit:
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/npl_hrs.htm**